BOOK REVIEWS

RECENSIONS DE LIVRES

Current Therapy in Theriogenology, 2nd edition by David A. Morrow. Toronto, W.B. Saunders, 1986, 1143 pages. Price $140.

The first edition of this text was a comprehensive book dealing with clinical reproductive abnormalities of domestic animals and the recognized therapies for these conditions. The second edition provides updated information regarding diagnostic aids and therapies as well as management strategies designed to reduce the incidence of some reproductive abnormalities. As stated in the preface, this book is meant to be a "concise source of current information documented by controlled research on the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of reproductive conditions in large and small animals." In most cases this aim is achieved and as such the text will prove useful to practicing veterinarians as well as undergraduate and graduate veterinary students.

The book is divided into 14 sections dealing with the following topics, i) Principles of Hormone Therapy; ii) Diagnostic Endocrinology; iii) Principles of Antibiotic Therapy; iv) Embryo Transfer and Genetic Engineering; v) Bovine Reproduction; vi) Canine Reproduction; vii) Caprine Reproduction; viii) Equine Reproduction; ix) Feline Reproduction; x) Ovine Reproduction; xi) Porcine Reproduction; xii) Laboratory Animals; xiii) Zoo Animals and; xiv) Computers in Reproductive Health programs. These sections contain chapters written by more than 200 contributing authors. As a result the book covers the majority of the relevant topics and new developments pertinent to theriogenologists. However the detail with which each topic is covered is somewhat variable and in many cases there is a great deal of overlap of subject area by contributing authors. This resulted in some repetition particularly in the canine section.

A minor fault with this text is the lack of references at the end of some chapters particularly in the bovine section. When statements are made regarding therapy of reproductive abnormalities, the authors would be advised to cite well-designed controlled studies where possible, so that their conclusions can be verified by readers who wish to do so. However, the majority of the chapters are very well referenced.

Emphasis on dystocia and obstetrical procedures is minimal in this text. This subject is dealt with more completely in Robert's *Veterinary Obstetrics and Genital Diseases Theriogenology*.

Where they are used, illustrations and photographs are effective in illustrating diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. However there are very few of them and some subject areas would have benefited from their use.

The index was very effective in the first edition and it would appear to have improved in this edition. As well there is an appendix where some practical information is provided in tabulated format. The information will be useful not only to veterinarians calculating dosages and treatment schedules but also to veterinary students preparing for examinations.

This text is mandatory reference material for any veterinary practitioner providing complete service to owners of domestic animals. There are many diagnostic and therapeutic procedures described which can improve the health and productivity of domestic animals. Utilization of the information provided should allow veterinarians to improve the standards of their practice.

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Essentials of Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology, 3rd edition, by G.R. Carter. Philadelphia, Lea and Febiger, 1986, 261 pages. Price $40.75.

This is the newest edition of G.R. Carter's book whose purpose is to provide veterinary students with the more important facts of introductory and pathogenic bacteriology and mycology.

The text follows the format of previous two editions; a general section of introductory microbiology (eight chapters), followed by specific bacterial pathogens (21 chapters), and a short section on fungal infections (five chapters). Revisions have improved the text over that of the second edition. As an example, the chapter on Bacterial Genetics, has been updated by G.W. Claus as Molecular Genetics and covers such relevant topics as genetic engineering and the veterinary significance of plasmids. Changes in the format of the print and in the layout of figures and tables have resulted in a neatly organized and readable text.

The intent of the book is to provide basic factual information covering a very large subject matter in parallel with lectures and laboratory exercises and therefore much detail and investigative literature is omitted. This could be regarded as a major fault but, in fact, this feature of the book is its greatest asset since its intended user is the undergraduate student. By providing essential information the book facilitates efforts by students to retain pertinent information for application not only during their academic training but after graduation. The book does this by organizing each pathogen's description as short notes on principal characteristics, distribution and transmission, pathogenesis/pathogenicity, specimens, isolation, identification, immunity, treatment, suggested clinical examples and references for further reading.

The suggested clinical examples are potentially useful study and teaching tools. The author illustrates their use.

The book has a rather old-fashioned approach to microbiology. As an example, the need to use experimental animals in the diagnosis of microbial disease is questionable given ever improving rapid identification techniques. The references for further reading in the book would be more useful if updated. The majority of references are from the 1960s and 1970s. The author refers to *Corynebacterium pyogenes* yet the nomenclature changes to *Actinomyces pyogenes* was well recognized before the time of printing. Similarly, Mycoplasmas identical with F-38 appear to be the most important cause of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and not the three mycoplasma species attributed by the author.

The book contains its share of mistakes and inevitable typographical errors. Two noteworthy mistakes are: in the description of the Gram staining procedure (page 6) the basic dye is not "washed off with an iodine-potassium iodide solution" but is rather chemically completed on the slide with an iodine-potassium iodide solution; and on page 193; the *Actinomyces* are described as "catalase-*positive* (except for *A. viscosus*)" when in fact they are catalase-*negative* as correctly noted in the chart on page 195.

Overall, this book will be a useful text for veterinary and animal health technician undergraduates. Teachers of veterinary microbiology can recommend it to their students as a practical and reasonably priced microbiology reference text.

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